

INFORMAL SUBMISSION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: William Hughes

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Examiner: Sy D. Luu

Title: OBJECTS AND METHODS FOR ACCESSING A DATA SOURCE AND
ENHANCING AN APPLICATION

DECLARATION BY INVENTOR

1. I, William Hughes, am the inventor in the above captioned matter.

2. I have experience in the computer software field. In particular, _____

3. The software object disclosed in the above application achieves the simultaneous display of side-by-side entries that originated from very different sources, namely: (a) user entries alongside (b) automated entries that are (i) specified by those user entries and (ii) fetched from a database or the like.

4. Page 19, line 17 through page 20, line 1; and page 22, line 31 through page 23, line 4 of the present specification describes selecting or pointing to a plurality of cells in a spreadsheet that the user typed into the spreadsheet.

5. Page 20, lines 16-24 of the specification describes how a user selects a database source or some other data source accessible over, for example, the Internet. Page 20, lines 26-30 of the specification describes how a user can specify the data types desired from such sources.

6. Using the example of Figure 4, if nothing further is done the only data that will be displayed is the list of data appearing in the column containing manual entry FI. But the automated data will be fetched and displayed when the user clicks button 30 of Figure 5 (for an update, the user clicks button 80 of Figure 7). See the specification at page 21, lines 11-14; and page 26, lines 2-5.

7. Now, the disclosed software object reads the plurality of symbols in the column containing entry FI. See the specification at page 21, lines 14-16. The software object then uses the symbols just read as a definition for the data to be

fetched from an outside source. The fetched data is used to fill in the other blank columns. See the specification at page 2, lines 22-27.

8. Accordingly, after setting up the display using the dialog box of Figure 5, the underlying application's display screen can then function almost like an ordinary display screen in the application. With the example of Table 1 of page 23 of the specification, the user can edit the first column, changing IBM to GM, and changing GE to STX, for example. After clicking button 80 the data on these two rows will change automatically. However, the user will have a sense of having stayed in the underlying application (i.e., having started in Excel and remained in Excel).

9. I carefully reviewed the Moseley document cited by the Examiner (Mastering Microsoft Office 97 second edition) pp. 873-888, which describes a form wizard and other features for creating forms for an Access database.

10. I also independently investigated the capabilities of the Access database by reviewing other manuals and by examining the software itself.

11. The Examiner contends that Moseley discloses "displaying the requested information alongside and relative to the ordinary expression." This is inaccurate.

12. Using the form wizard and other features for creating forms offered with the Access database, it is impossible to produce (a) user entries alongside (b) automated entries that are (i) specified by the user entries and (ii) fetched from a database or the like.

13. In fact, the Moseley document does not claim to describe features with such capability.

14. The Access forms in question allow one to specify in advance what data will be fetched from an Access database and displayed in the form. See, for example, the datasheet layout of Figure 41.5 of page 877.

15. Once a form such as a datasheet layout is designed, the form does not allow a user to enter into the form a plurality of data, followed by automatic insertion into the same form of data specified by the user-entered data.

16. Current versions of Access lack any methods, events, or referential addressing scheme that enable automatic insertion into the same form of data specified in a plurality of user-entered data.

17. I hereby declare that all statements made herein on information and are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge

that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

William Hughes

Dated: